U.S. - Mass. - Worcester

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WORCESTER CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

1903.

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FIFTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WORCESTER

CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

WORCESTER, MASS.:
PRESS OF CHARLES HAMILTON.
1903.

OFFICERS FOR 1903.

FIRST DIRECTRESS:

Mrs. GEORGE A. BARNARD, ... Millbrook St.

SECOND DIRECTRESS:

Mrs. FRANCIS B. KNOWLES, ... 842 Main St.

SECRETARY:

Mrs. EDMUND M. BARTON, ... 262 Salisbury St.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Miss MARY BROWN, ... 83 Pleasant St.

TREASURER:

Mrs. GEORGE H. MILLER, ... 44 May St.

MANAGERS:

Mrs. Charles A. Allen,
Mrs. Alfred Atherton,
Mrs. Theo. Brown,
Mrs. Edward C. Carleton,
Mrs. Elizabeth F. P. Chamberlin,
Miss Mary R. Colton,
Mrs. Fred H. Daniels,
Mrs. Holland P. Evans,
Miss Sarah P. Fitch,
Mrs. Asa Goddard,
Mrs. Charles W. Gray,
Mrs. John E. Hastings,
Mrs. Frank P. Knowles,
Miss Maria B. Morse,
Mrs. James A. Norcross,
Mrs. Orlando W. Norcross,
Mrs. Charles H. Pinkham,
Miss Emma A. Pratt,
Mrs. William P. Searls,
Mrs. Charles W. Sears,
Mrs. Frederick Simester,
Mrs. D. Wheeler Swift,
Mrs. Roger F. Upham,
Mrs. George H. Ward,
Mrs. Emerson Warner,
Mrs. George C. Whitney.

HONORARY MANAGERS:

Mrs. Dana H. Fitch,
Mrs. Jonathan Munyan,
* Mrs. Ezra P. Waterhouse.

MATRON:

Mrs. ABBIE T. WHITE.

ASSISTANT MATRON:

Mrs. LIZZIE M. BASSETT.

BOARD OF ADVISERS:

Mr. A. George Bullock,
Mr. Edward I. Comins,
Hon. Edward L. Davis,
Hon. Francis A. Gaskill,
Mr. Lincoln N. Kinnicutt,
Mr. James Logan,
Mr. Philip W. Moen,
Hon. Stephen Salisbury,
Mr. Edward F. Tolman,
Mr. G. Henry Whitcomb,
Lemuel F. Woodward, M. D.,
Mr. William Woodward.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Lincoln N. Kinnicutt,
Mrs. Francis B. Knowles,
Mrs. George H. Miller.

* Died March 9, 1903.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

The report for 1902 has much to do with the experiment of boarding the children in private families and as far as possible outside the city. The constantly recurring necessity of making repairs upon an old building, and then after all that could be done, the cramped and inconvenient condition of the establishment, led Mrs. Barnard, the first directress, to take steps toward investigating the methods of conducting similar work in other large cities. After most careful thought, and personal interviews with the officers of such societies, Mr. Kingsley, General Secretary of the Boston Children's Friend Society, was asked to come to Worcester and tell of their success in placing the children in private families. Those who listened to him were strongly impressed that the time for a radical change in the management had arrived. With the approval of the majority of the Advisory Board and the consenting vote of the Managers, the experiment was begun.

When it became known that boarding places were wanted for the children, many applications were sent in, and the homes were visited by the Matron. Particular attention was given to the locality of the houses, the bedrooms for the children were shown, and always the general air of the home selected was wholesome and attractive. In June the children were all taken from the Home to these boarding places; in every instance children from the same family being kept together. No child has ever expressed any desire to return. They are all with intelligent people whom they are expected to obey, and from whom they are learning the little duties which can never be separate from the lives of humble folk, or be amiss in whatever higher sphere to which they may rise. The homes are all of American people, with the exception of two little Swede brothers whose mother asked that

they might be put into a Swedish family. The interest shown by the Matron and her ready response to whatever might be desired for the ultimate good of the children has been most helpful. The affection she has inspired leads them to confide in her, and their frank little confidences give us the information we need concerning their new life. One child, lifting her little eager face with shining eyes, said, "O, Mrs. White, we don't have any fences round our house." It would almost seem as if this one little child had solved the whole question; and in the simplicity of her statement had expressed what might be written in volumes of this freedom from the restraint of institutional life. One other little child said as she was leaving, "We shan't be poor any more because we are going into the country to live, but you and Mrs. Bassett will be because you've got to stay at the Home." How fine a discrimination, unconsciously made, between the old life and the new.

Two little girls have gone into the home of a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, who at one time was a school teacher, but living alone she seemed to crave the companionship of children. The Matron going there unexpectedly one night, saw them through the window, sitting at a lighted table, the little girls sewing on their dolls' clothes, and the woman reading to them, —a picture of quiet content. We have been very fortunate in being able to retain the Matron and Assistant Matron, who select the homes, visit the children and make their clothing. They have rooms in the Home and can be seen there to answer questions about the children.

Societies from the following churches have sewed for the children: Pleasant Street Baptist, Old South, Pilgrim, Central, First Universalist, All Souls, South Unitarian and Plymouth. The *Daily Spy* and *Evening Gazette* generously continue to publish our notices and leave their papers at the Home. The "Hospital Cottage Friend" is also sent there.

One child has died. She was a poor little suffering cripple, and before coming to the Home had lead a most unhappy life. Her mother had died and her father had been obliged to lock her into their room while he was at work. The woman where she boarded was a tender-hearted soul, and made the child's

last days the happiest of her painful life. The other children have been unusually well; our generous friend, Dr. Lemuel F. Woodward, having been called but once, to attend a little girl who hurt her arm.

The death of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Parker has removed from the Board of Managers one of the oldest of its members. She had been on the Board since 1853, and her interest in the affairs of the Home and the children had grown to be of such an absorbing nature, that it seemed to be almost the one delight of her life to visit them.

We wish especially to thank the kind friends who sent Christmas presents to the children. The Matron had something to send every child, and in each town the sunday-school, and even the neighbors, sent them something besides. Mrs. A. George Bullock sent her usual gift of twenty-five dollars, and Mrs. Homer Gage sent five dollars, which were most gratefully received. The whole number of children cared for at the Home during the year is fifty-three, in care of the Society at present forty-four.

The desire which must always be uppermost in the hearts of those interested in the care of needy and suffering children, to help the greatest number with the means available, seems nearer realization in attempting this broader method, than during the old *régime*, when only a limited number of children could be taken, no matter how touching the appeal. I give an example. A foreman from one of the large shops came to the Home to ask if four little Finn girls could be brought there and cared for. The mother had died and the father drank to such excess that he could do very little work at the shop, and was only kept there in pity for his children. They were ragged, dirty and nearly starved. After much careful labor, they were clean, and clothed and fed. A week before, a woman from Holden had written to ask if she could have four little girls to board. The day after the arrival of these little ones at the Home, they were comfortably housed with this motherly woman and she had her four little girls. If our children had all been in the Home, it would have been impossible to keep another child, and what would have

become of these little homeless waifs I leave to your imagination.

We ask the public to acquaint themselves with the details of our new plan, and to give us their intelligent interest. In the readjustment of every such scheme there must necessarily be more expense, therefore we ask for their financial aid to extend this most appealing charity.

Respectfully submitted.

ABIGAIL BLAKE BARTON,

Secretary.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

FOR THIRTEEN MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1, 1903.

RECEIPTS.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS.

All Saints	$ 45 43
All Souls	10 00
Central	59 98
Friends	30 00
First Unitarian	104 61
First Baptist	27 23
First Universalist	50 00
Grace	13 00
Old South	45 00
Pleasant St. Baptist	15 00
Plymouth	49 25
Piedmont	126 50
Saint Mark's	50 00
Saint John's	7 00
Trinity	52 25
Unity	68 00
Union	51 50
	$804 75

DONATIONS IN MONEY.

All Souls Ladies' Society	$ 3 40
Brittan Square Charity Club	12 00
Mrs. Blaisdell	1 00
Green St. Mission	1 00
Heralds of the King (Union church)	3 40
Mrs. Foye	5 00
Pilgrim Church Woman's Association	10 91
South Unitarian Ladies' Society	7 70
	$44 41

INCOME.

Dividends	$2,960 00
Interest	902 71
	$3,862 71

BOARD.

Board of children	$1,170 90

LEGACIES.

Mary W. Bothwell	$100 00
Nancy L. Chapman	147 85
	$247 85

MISCELLANEOUS.

Denholm & McKay Company	$500 00
Rebate of State tax	37 66

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Mrs. Agnes Fanning, Lancaster	$ 25 00
Mrs. Emma J. Moulton	25 00
	$587 66

EXPENSES.

HOUSE.

Bedsteads	$ 52 50
Carpenter	27 10
Carpets cleaned	5 51
Gas	21 40
Hardware	1 25
Plumber	11 30
Removing ashes	9 50
Repairing chimney	12 75
Telephone	25 37
	$166 68

CLOTHING.

Boots and shoes, new and repaired	$193 06
Dry goods	432 79
	$625 85

FOOD SUPPLIES.

Groceries	$449 93
Meat	267 67
Milk	188 06
Fish	53 05
Ice	19 38
	$978 09

BOARD.

Children	$2,077 76
Matrons	119 85
	$2,197 61

SALARIES.

Matron	$ 450 00
Assistant Matron	375 00
Cook, Laundress and attendants for six months, and janitor	624 82
Treasurer	50 00
	$1,499 82
Fuel	$161 75

MISCELLANEOUS.

Advertising	$ 2 62
Barber	7 35
Cobbler	3 68
Children to boarding places	10 50
Druggist	8 34
Doctor	14 00
Express	2 40
Expenses Mr. Clark, of New York	11 00
Ice-fund	5 62
Laundry	4 65
Printing	53 72
Renewal Fire Insurance	90 00
Relaying front walk	23 90
Safe Deposit rental	5 00
Street sprinkling	17 05
Stationery, stamps, etc	16 94
Travelling	38 14
Sundries	14 59
	$329 50

RECAPITULATION.

RECEIPTS.

Churches	$ 804 75
Income	3,862 71
Legacies	247 85
Other sources	1,802 97
Cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1902	150 03
	$6,868 31

EXPENSES.

House	$ 166 68
Food	978 09
Clothing	625 85
Board	2,197 61
Salaries	1,499 82
Fuel	161 75
Miscellaneous	329 50
Total Expenses	$5,959 30
Permanent Fund	687 85
Cash on hand Jan. 1, 1903	221 16
	$6,868 31

Respectfully submitted.

MARY E. MILLER,
Treasurer.

I have examined the foregoing accounts, with the vouchers, and find them correct.

EMMA A. PRATT,
Auditor.

LIFE MEMBERS.

Allen, Miss Linnie M.,
*Baker, Miss Nancy,
Ball, Mrs. Phinehas,
Barnard, Mrs. George A.,
*Barnard, Mrs. John,
Barton, Mrs. Edmund M.,
Batchelder, Mrs. Annie M.,
Bemis, Mrs. J. Orlando,
*Bradley, Mrs. Osgood,
*Brown, Mrs. Amos,
Bullock, Mrs. A. George,
Canfield, Mrs. Penelope S.,
Canfield, Miss Penelope W. S.,
*Clark, Mr. Jonas G.,
Clark, Mrs. Jonas G.,
*Clapp, Mrs. Simeon,
*Colton, Mrs. Samuel H.,
*Cutler, Rev. Ebenezer,
Cutler, Mrs. Ebenezer,
Daniels, Mrs. William P.,
Davis, Hon. Edward L.,
Davis, Mrs. Edward L.,
Dunton, Miss Anne P.,
*Fanning, Mrs. David H.,
*Fiske, Miss Nelly,
Fitch, Mrs. Dana H.,
Francis, Mrs. George E.,
*Fuller, Mrs. Caleb S.,
Garver, Rev. Austin S.,
Garver, Mrs. Austin S.,
*Gerould, Mrs. James H.,
*Gilbert, Mrs. Peregrine B.,
Gilbert, Miss Alice L.,
Gilbert, Mrs. Charles W.,
Goddard, Mrs. Charles A.,
*Goodnow, Mrs. Edward A.,
*Goss, Mrs. Samuel A.,
*Greenleaf, Mrs. William,
*Hammond, Mrs. Henry K.,
Harris, Mrs. Moses H.,
*Hill, Rev. Alonzo, D.D.,
*Hill, Mrs. Alonzo,
Hill, Miss Frances A.,
*James, Rev. Horace,
*James, Mrs. Horace,
Jennings, Mrs. Henry J.,
*Knight, Miss Harriet,
*Knowlton, Mrs. Pomeroy,
Knowles, Mrs. Francis B.,
Lancaster, Mrs. John E.,
*Lincoln, Mr. John W.,
*Lincoln, Hon. Levi,
*Lincoln, Mrs. Levi,
*Lombard, Mrs. Nathan A.,
*Maynard, Mrs. William G.,
*Merrifield, Mrs. William T.,
*Morrison, Rev. Archibald,
*Morrison, Mrs. Archibald,
Morgan, Mrs. Charles H.,
Moulton, Mrs. Emma J.,
*Mower, Miss Caroline C.,
Munyan, Mrs. Jonathan,
*Muzzy, Mrs. Edwin A.,
*Nash, Miss Elizabeth S.,
*Newton, Mrs. Rejoice,
Norcross, Mr. Orlando W.,
Norcross, Mrs. Orlando W.,
*Otis, Mrs. John C.,
*Parker, Mrs. Alfred,
*Partridge, Mrs. Edward G.,
Phillips, Rev. George W.,
Phillips, Mrs. George W.,
*Pond, Mrs. John F.,
Pratt, Miss Emma A.,
*Pratt, Mrs. Sumner,
Reed, Mrs. Thomas H.,
*Rice, Mrs. George M.,
*Rice, Mrs. Henry C.,
*Salisbury, Mrs. Elizabeth,
*Salisbury, Mrs. Mary G.,
*Salisbury, Hon. Stephen, Sr.,
Salisbury, Hon. Stephen,
*Smalley, Rev. Elam, D.D.,
*Smalley, Mrs. Elam,
*Smith, Rev. George P.,
Stimson, Rev. Henry A., D.D.,
Stimson, Mrs. Henry A.,
*Sweetser, Rev. Seth, D.D.,
Taft, Mrs. Henry G.,
*Tolman, Mr. Albert,
*Waldo, Miss Sarah,
Walker, Mrs. Edward A.,
*Wetherell, Mrs. John W.,
*Whitcomb, Mrs. G. Henry,
White, Mrs. Abbie T.,
*White, Mrs. Charles,
*Whitney, Mrs. Edward,
*Wilder, Mrs. Alexander H.,
*Williams, Mrs. Warren,
*Woodbury, Miss Anna,
*Woodward, Mrs. David,

*Deceased.

Contributors of Money, Clothing, Furniture, Food, Toys, Etc.

Allen, Miss Marion,
All Souls Church,
Amidon, Mrs. F. A.,
Bamberg, Mrs. Frederick H.,
Bancroft, Mr. Clinton A.,
Bancroft Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution,
Baptist Church (1st.),
Barnard, Mrs. George A.,
Barton, Miss Edith A.,
Benchley, Mrs. Edward,
Benchley, Mrs. James E.,
Bethany Church Junior Christian Endeavor.
Bill, Miss Lucy,
Blake, Mrs. James B.,
Bullock, Mrs. A. George,
Burke, Miss Mary.
Canfield, Mrs. Penelope S.,
Church of Christ,
Clark Company, J. D. (Rockdale),
Clark-Sawyer Company,
Colvin, Mrs. Arthur B.,
Colvin, James B.,
Daniels, Mrs. Fred H.,
Davis & Banister,
Davis, Miss Ethel,
Davis & Nye (Waterbury),
Day, Mrs. John E.,
Denholm & McKay Company,
Dewey, Mrs. Sarah B.,
Dickie, Mrs. James H.,
Elliot, Miss Florence,
Ellis, Mrs. Dean S.,
Farnsworth, Mrs. William A.,
Fay, Mrs. Hiram E.,
Flagg, Mrs. J. Walter,
Foye, Mrs. Frank W.,
Gage, Mrs. Homer,
Girls' Club,
Green, Mrs. James,
Hall, Mrs. Henry E.,
Hass, Jr., Mr. Henry J.,
Healey, Mr. Richard,
Hill, Mrs. Sophia H.,
Hoxie, Mr. Eben W.,
Hutchins, Mr. George F.,
Jones, Miss Rebecca,
Kirby, Miss (Paxton),
Knowles, Mrs. Frank P.,
Lake View Church Ladies' Missionary Society,
Lake View Sunday-School (Miss Fobes's class),
Logan, Swift & Brigham,
Lowell Company, A. S.,
Marble, Mrs. Edward H.,
March, Mrs. George H.,
Mecorney, Mrs. Charles F.,
Mecorney, Mrs. William,
Messinger, Mrs. Frank L ,
Miller, Mrs. George H.,
Miller, Miss Martha E.,
Norcross, Mrs. Orlando W.,
Old South Church,
Old South Junior Christian Endeavor,
Phetteplace, Mrs. F. E.,
Peidmont Church,
Piedmont Intermediate Christian Endeavor,
Pilgrim Church Sunday School Kindergarten,
Plymouth Church Ladies' Association,
Protective Union Company,
Putnam, Miss Ella,
Republican Club,
Richards, Mrs. Elizabeth,
Richmond, Mrs. Walter,
Roberts, Mrs. Samuel W.,
Searls, Mrs. William P.,
Skerry, Miss M. D.,
Soule, Mrs. Nicholas E.,
Tatassit Canoe Club,
Train, Miss Constance,
Thurston, Mrs. Frank E.,
Union Church King's Messengers,
Unity Church,
Universalist (1st), Ladies' Social,
Vinton, Mrs. Waldo H.,
Walker, Mrs. E. L.,
Warren, Mrs.,
Webster, Miss Harriet M.,
Woodland Street School,
Wright, Mr. Edward,